

THE EDITOR SPEAKS...

LOOKING AHEAD

The first meeting of the new officers of Mercer Student Government was held last night at the Bell House Restaurant. After dinner, President Ray Brewster called upon each of the members to give an informal report on plans already formulated for carrying out the duties of his own individual office.

Naturally, some of these duties were more or less prescribed in the student constitution, but such offices as the president, vice-president, secretary, freshman advisor, and the editors and business managers of the three publications found that a wide range of individual initiative will be involved in carrying out their duties.

Dean Richard Burts expressed the attitude of the Administration toward Student Government as being that of interest and cooperation rather than of control and censorship. With as fine an attitude from the students themselves, Mercer Student Government certainly can expect to go forward to bigger and better things during the coming year.

On the schedule for The Cluster next year are a number of contemplated changes—most of them in the interest of better professional journalism. Expansions already planned are: more real news, more campus "scoops," more pictures, more features, better coverage of sports and social events, and added coverage of all Student Government meetings and Mercer faculty meetings. Journalistic changes contemplated include: a new masthead, return to regular newsprint paper, and substitution of "local color" feature stories for Lem Libel or a weekly gossip column of any kind.

But of far greater importance than any expansion The Cluster might make along these lines is the policy of complete impartiality towards all campus groups and individuals in the news, feature, social, sports and editorial pages of the paper. Staff members will be chosen on the basis of capability and dependability, but in every case, evidence of partiality or political bias will result in immediate removal from the staff.

Here's hoping that all of the students will take a more vital interest in all phases of Student Government activity during the coming year to make this a better campus for all of us. —J.C.C.

You Owe Mercer A Debt

This article appeared in The Mercer-Cluster of May 22, 1946, and because of its present application to Mercer students, it is considered by the editors worthy and deserving of reprinting.

"You owe Mercer a debt," this is not to be considered in monetary terms. However the debt is outstanding and seems to be growing in size as time passes. The debt—your conscientious interest in seeing that Mercer activities reach their highest standard. That scholastically we must achieve the highest. That groups and organizations be placed second in the furtherance of policies favorable to the improvement of the University. That student interest be so bonded that common topic discussion be of a fraternal air with the purpose of constructively increasing the prestige of our school instead of the various campus groups. And the greatest of all remember this motto, "You can do all kinds of good if you don't worry about who will get the credit."

Students we must keep this debt in mind for in the future our degree from Mercer will constitute our greatest qualification for a job. If we are to expect this degree to be as highly honored as degrees from other Universities, we must set a precedence for the future students of Mercer to uphold. A Mercer graduate will be at a premium on the market if we all settle down to a steady program of eliminating disunity between campus groups and to further the common bond of the Mercerian air.

We have all possibly wondered what would unite the students of Mercer. This is it—"Make this institution a hard place to get in and tougher to stay." Mercer should be a highly selective school; should participate in intercollegiate activities with colleges of its size; should have a strong student government. If we really want a campus and school to be proud of we must follow this plan.

We must dispense with petty and selfish ideas and above all let it be known that Mercer is an institution of liberal arts that cannot be rivaled in the Southeast. This is a true statement and it is our responsibility to keep Mercer in that position of honor and prestige. This is not being done for the debt is slowly but surely rising. Although the debt is rising the condition may be alleviated during the summer quarter if we come back to school with the intent to put campus groups second; to further student government and its power; to discourage random talk injurious to student pride and allegiance to our alma mater.



JOE GOSSETT

Mirror Of Students' Thought?

The Cluster prides itself in being the means of expression of the students' will. But is it? Now, this is not meant in any way to suggest that the paper is biased or speaks for only a certain group of students. On the other hand, Editor-in-Chief Jim Cowan has taken every precaution to prevent the infiltration of biased journalism into The Cluster.

What I am attempting to bring out is that no effective gauge of student opinion concerning vital issues of the day has yet been conceived or put into action here at Mercer. Surely we all have our own individual convictions concerning important issues of school, state, national, and international affairs. I am sure, furthermore, that the determination of how the majority of us feel about such matters will provide a service that Mercer students have long wanted and needed.

The University of Georgia, in particular, and other colleges, in general, in our state have conducted student sponsored "straw polls" at one time or another; the results of which have been given a great deal of publicity. Polls such as these are not to be encouraged, however, because many times the people who conduct them have ulterior motives in so doing and they poll only such students as will voice the opinion they desire to be heard. For this reason I hope everyone of you will co-operate in the project we are embarking on

this week and which I would like to present for your consideration at this time.

Next week ballot sheets concerning summer school activities, gubernatorial preference, presidential preference, and some aspect of international affairs will be placed in all post office boxes for students to fill out and return to a box which will be on the wall outside the Cluster office. Let me urge you to fill out these sheets. It will be greatly appreciated, and you will be performing a service for yourself and all other members of the student body.

The Cluster will serve as host publication for the first convention of the Georgia Collegiate Press Association here this weekend. It is taking the lead among college papers of this state in trying to bring to the students a better brand of journalism. It is only appropriate that it perform its services to you in order that this goal of better journalism can be accomplished. With your co-operation, The Cluster can be truly "a mirror of students' thoughts and actions."

Has Education Failed Yet?

by J. David Cook

Editor, The South Georgian

In a recent article a well known college president posed a question to his faculty:

"Has education failed in the nation's colleges?"

He went on in his article to express his views that education had really failed. He enumerated many factors showing that education, in reality, had failed to give today's student the knowledge he is thirsting for.

It has often occurred to me in my trials and errors as I waded through my education, trying my best not to get my feet too wet, that I am not getting what I need in college.

I have sit down in my spare moment of leisure wondering what that one little thing that I feel that I am missing could be. I jumped up, somehow, and yelled "Eureka" in a faint voice. The thing I was not getting that I needed so much in college was—inspiration.

Almost every person must have some sort of motivation before they can succeed in any profession. And that's where colleges today are falling down on the job, in my weak opinion. There is no "oomph" in college life today.

The student's classroom life is one continual rush from the first day of school to the last. No one is bothering to tell the student why he is supposed to be rushing through his course. He can't help but hold back a little and survey the scene with a raised eyebrow.

His extra-curricular life resembles that of a dying calf giving one last, long low for his mother. If he is getting no motivation in class, then, here is the place the student should make his last stand—but he is like Custer. He is cut down.

Where, then, is the student to get his inspiration?

It seems that the colleges are leaving that up to the individual. If he needs a little mental awakening he must find it at home.

Or is he looking for it elsewhere?

AROUND MERCER

with Dexter Kimsay

Two things every student should know upon entering college are proper definitions of life and philosophy. The understanding of these two words may help to clear up a lot of our work-a-day problems.

The other day I heard one student ask another if he could give an appropriate definition of life. "Oh sure," replied the bright young man. "Life is just one thing after another." This is undoubtedly one definition that we have all used at one time or another.

The same interrogator, satisfied with the definition of life given him, then asked the young Mercerian for a definition of philosophy. Philosophy, expostulated the young whelp, may be expressed in terms of: "How come you do like you do?" For these two brilliant answers the young man received a pat on the shoulder and was sent on his way.

Barn Dance

The Phi Mu barn dance held in the recreation hall of St. Joseph's Catholic Church was a rollicking success. Peanut Faircloth and his "hillbilly band" furnished good old swing-your-partner dance music.

Dungarees and T shirts were the practicability of this mode of dress, for only a rugged outfit will sustain such punishment.

Many popular hillbilly ballads were sung while Mercer students sipped cokes or chomped on hot dogs. This form of entertainment was new to a lot of people present as the music was entirely by string instruments.

This gay and colorful party is just a sample of what can be done for the enjoyment of all Mercerians. The informality and friendliness of such a function display the full intent of a good old get-together. More of these parties will certainly be relished by all Mercer students.

BOB GARDNER

Bee Scene

At a younger and less precise age, I would without misgivings have called it a bumble-bee; and the now I continue to do so, the feeling of inadequacy in the field of bee-ology becomes a passing part of me. But at any rate, call it what you will, the alternating hum and pounding on glass of wings first drew my attention to it, and there it was: a pretty good sized black and yellow bee trying vigorously to get thru a restraining window.

Standing upright on a bottom molding at times, it would fairly claw at the barrier, its wings straining, and its body surging and pushing. Eventually its efforts would either carry it half way up the window, only to fall as it seemingly "caught a breath" and fell back, or momentarily end as it slipped and fell. And then it would try again. And again.

Or perhaps it would apparently go berserk—if bees can go there, fly away from the window, and aggressively return with an unavailing thud.

But the rest was short, and the ensuing struggle as vicious as before. The same tactics were used; the same results obtained. As I left, it was still pugnaciously trying to move the immovable, still trying desperately to push itself through to freedom.

In many ways it reminded me of men attempting to force their way out of their own frightfully mechanical universes. Or a "D" student trying for an "A."

THE MERCER CLUSTER

Mirror of Student Thought and Action

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